

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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JOINT STATE/ USIS MESSAGE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: DAWN EDITOR ALTAF GAUHAR BAILED-- CASE TO BE WITHDRAWN

REF: KARACHI 0219

1. KARACHI PRESS REPORTS THAT A DIVISION BENCH OF SIND- BALUCHISTAN HIGH COURT ON APRIL 17 ALLOWED RELEASE OF DAWN EDITOR- IN- CHIEF ALTAF GAUHAR ON PERSONAL BOND OF 5,000 RUPEES, AFTER ATTORNEY GENERAL YAHYA BAKHTIAR HAD INFORMED COURT THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THE CASE AGAINST GAUHAR.
2. BAUHAR WAS ARRESTED FEBRUARY 15 (REFTEL) AND CHARGED UNDER THE DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN RULES (NUMBER 31, 42 AND 49) WITH " ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT." (ALLEGEDLY, BAUHAR HAD " IN HIS POSSESSION" WHEN ARRESTED FALSE INDIAN AND AFGHANI PASSPORTS, 1,650 U. S. DOLLARS AND 50 POUNDS STERLING.) THE GOP CONSTITUTED A SPECIAL THREE- MAN TRIBUNAL FEBRUARY 22 TO TRY GAUHAR UNDER DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN RULES

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(DPT), AND SINCE THEN GAUHAR'S LAWYERS HAVE BEEN CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY OF THE SPECIAL- TRIBUNAL BEFORE THE HIGH COURT,

WITH GAUHAR CONSISTENTLY DENYING ALL CHARGES.

3. AFTER HIS RELEASE, GAUHAR VISITED THE PAKISTAN HERALD PUBLICATIONS (DAWN, HURRIYET, MONTHLY HERALD) OFFICES WHERE, ACCORDING TO DAWN'S ACCOUNT, GAUHAR WAS EXTOLLED FOR " CHAMPIONING THE CAUYS (WP, NYT, SUN, NYDN). WH' S WARREN DECLINES DISCUSS BORDER SITUATION, BUT SAYS GVN HAD " TAKEN CERTAIN DEFENSIVE ACTION" AS RESULT NVA TRUCE VIOLATIONS (NYT).

2. ISAACS (SUN), IN PP, SAYS US AIR WAR IN CAMBODIA RESEMBLES START OF ANOTHER VN- STYLE US COMMITMENT WITH NO END IN SIGHT. ACCORDING ISAACS, " RAMSHACKLE",

DEMORALIZED, CORRUPTION- PLAGUED FANK HAS LOST MUCH TERRITORY AND POPULATION IN PAST TWO MONTHS, LON NOL HAS LOST POPULAR SUPPORT, NO C- F NEGOTS ARE IN SIGHT, AND MOST OF COMBAT NOW BEING BORNE BY 40,000 INSURGENTS AIDED BY ONLY 4-5 THOUSAND NVA ADVISERS. US EMBASSY NOW ACKNOWLEDGES THERE IS AMERICAN- STAFFED COMMAND CENTER " SOMEWHERE IN CAMBODIA" MADE UP OF 25- MAN MEDT TEAM WHICH CONTROLS US AIR STRIKES. INCREASING PRESENCE AT PP AIRPORT OF USAF SPOTTER PLANES CROWDS CONGRESS- IMPOSED IN- COUNTRY US PERSONNEL CEILING.

3. MOST PAPERS FEATURE HUMMEL- NOOTER- DOOLIN TESTIMONY BEFORE KENNEDY REFUGEE SUB- COMMITTEE. NYT' S GWERTZMAN AND OTHERS QUOTE HUMMEL: " I CANNOT, IN ALL HONESTY, WITH ANY CONFIDENCE, PREDICT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS" (IN CAMBODIA). ACCORDING HUMMEL, US BOMBING RAIDS DESIGNED COUNTER " DETERMINED EFFORT" OF KHMER INSURGENTS TO TOPPLE GKR, AND PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE TO HANOI AND ITS KHMER ALLIES TO NEGOTIATE. ASKED BY KENNEDY IF HE BELIEVES LON NOL WILL REMAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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IN POWER WITH CURRENT LEVEL OF BOMBING, DOD' S DOOLIN SAYS, " YES." BOTH HUMMEL AND DOOLIN TESTIFY RAIDS ARE MADE AT GKR REQUEST, BUT SWANK TURNS DOWN MANY REQUESTS BECAUSE OF RISK TO CIVILIANS POPULATION. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE' S CHARLEBOIS AND NATIONALITIES SERVICE' S WELLS KLEIN TESTIFY NEITHER US NOR GKR HAS ANY ORGANIZED REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM AND MANY KHMER FACE STARVATION. KLEIN BLAMES BOMBING FOR MOST REFUGEES. AID' S NOOTER PROPOSES \$1.5 MILLION US REFUGEE AID PROGRAM (PHINQ, NYT, SUN, WP).

4. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE US BOMBING OF LAOS IN RESPONSE WHAT FREIDHEIM DESCRIBES AS " MAJOR VIOLATION" OF LAOS C- F AS RESULT COMMUNIST CAPTURE OF THA VIENG. POST' S MARDER SAYS RAID APPEARS DESIGNED ENFORCE

SOUVANNA PHOUMA WARNING OF MARCH 30 THAT HE WOULD SEEK US AIR INTERVENTION IF NVA ATTACKED THA VIENG OR TWO OTHER RLG OUTPOSTS. MARDER REPORTS ADMIN OFFICIALS HAD LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE EXPLANATIONS FOR RAID. ADMIN OFFICIALS STRESS " PRE- PLANNED" NATURE OF COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON THA VIENG AND PRESENCE OF TANKS AND HEAVY WEAPONS. REUTER REPORTS FROM VIENTIANE THAT SOUVANNA SAYS HE HAD WARNED COMMUNISTS NOT TO OVERRUN THA VIENG, OR RISK US AIR INTERVENTION. ONE OFFICIAL TELLS NYT' S BEECHER HE NOT SURE RAID WILL BE REPEATED BECAUSE IT DEPENDS UPON WHAT COMMUNIST NOW DO. NEW SOVIET SAM-3 S SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO NVA, THEREBY MAKING US BOMBING DECISION MORE RISKY. MISSILES CAN OPERATE

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EFFECTIVELY BELOW 1,000 FEET. POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF NVN BOMBING, ACCORDING BEECHER, NOW UNDER ACTIVE STUDY, BUT NEW MISSILES COULD DOUBLE PILOT LOSSES.

5. CHITRIB, NOTING NVN IGNORING TERMS OF PARIS AGREEMENT IN SVN, LAOS AND CAMBODIA, SAYS COMMUNIST RECALCITRANCE MAY BE DUE TO SIGNS THAT PROSPECTS FOR REHABILITATION AID WHICH NIXON HELD OUT AS REWARD FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR SEEM TO HAVE GONE AGLIMMERING. PERHAPS US HAS NOT ATTAINED " PEACE WITH HONOR," BUT AT LEAST WE ARE OUT OF VERY STICKY WAR. WOULD BE UNWISE TO START FLIRTING WITH FLYPAPER AGAIN. PRESIDENT
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MAY BE ABLE BRING COMMUNISTS TO SEE LIGHT BY INDUCING THEIR ERSTWHILE SUPPLIERS OF WAR MATERIAL, MOSCOW AND PEKING, TO PERSUADE THEM THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO PLAY WITH FIRE. BOTH USSR AND PRC SEEM DISPOSED TO NUTURE ASSOCIATION WITH US. THERE TRADE AND OTHER ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH.

6. PHIL BULLETIN (APRIL 12) COMMENTS THAT ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO KEEP SITUATION IN LOW KEY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT CAMBODIAN BOMBING TO GENERATE SORT OF ANTI-WAR PROTEST THAT MARKED VN WAR. PRESIDENT IS SAID TO BE COUNTING ON NATIONAL WEARINESS BOTH WITH WAR AND WAR- PROTEST TO MAKE PUBLIC IGNORE FIGHTING.

7. STAR- NEWS (APRIL 16) NOTES LOOSE TALK ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ADMINISTRATION " USING" ARVN OR THAI TROOPS IN CAMBODIA. VIEWS PROPOSITION AS " FAR- FETCHED," AND IN ANY EVENT IT IS NOT DECISION FOR WASHINGTON TO MAKE.

8. ST. L. P- D' S DUDMAN EXPRESSES VIEW THAT AT LEAST SOME OF 19 JOURNALIST (5 AMERICANS), MOST OF

WHOM CAPTURED DURING APRIL- MAY 1970, AT TIME OF SVN AND
US INVASION OF CAMBODIA, ARE STILL ALIVE. HIGH TIME,
SAYS DUDMAN, THAT GOVERNMENTS MOST INVOLVED DO SOME-
THING ABOUT SITUATION.

9. MAXINE CHESHIRE (WP) REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH N.
VIETNAMESE WERE - TOO BUSY" TO RECEIVE SENATOR BROOKE
ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT EARLIER THIS MONTH, ACCORDING
TO SOURCES JUST BACK FROM HANOI, THEY ARE EAGER TO
RECEIVE SENATOR KENNEDY. IRONICALLY, KENNEDY AIDES
SAY HE' S " TOO BUSY" JUST NOW TO FIT TRIP INTO HIS
SCHEDULE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE JUGGLING. ROGERS

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